1	2	3
	Bengal Sponge Iron Manufactures Association in association with RRL, Bhubaneshwar and West Bengal Pollution Control Board.	
5.	Production of Ferro chrome from chrome ore fines and concentrate by solid reduction in fludized based reactor with use of natural gas: by FACOR	1.00 (1.00)
6.	Production of Low S & Low P Steels At VSP: Vlshakhapatnam Steel Plant	1.12 (0.89)
7.	Reduction/Modification of Non-Metallic Inclusion in Steal of VSP: Vlshakhapatnam Steel Plant.	1.22 (1.08)
8.	Prediction of Coke Properties with introduction of New Coal in Blend: by Vlshakhapatnam Steel Plant.	1.26 (1.00)
9.	Development to reduce specific energy consumption and enhance process efficiency in ferro alloy production: by National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur in association with The Indian Ferro Alloys Producers' Association, Mumbai.	2.40 (1.77)
10.	Quality improvement of low grade Iron Ore: by Research & Development Center for Iron & Steel, Steel Authority of India Ltd., Ranchi	11.50 (8.80)
11.	Development of integrated treatment process for coke oven effluents: by Research & Development Center for Iron & Steel, Steel Authority of India Ltd., Ranchi.	6.20 (3.15)
12.	Human resource development in iron & Steel: by IISc, Bangalore.	Not firmed up
	TOTAL :	150.79 (116.50)

Increasing SAIL's distribution network

2089. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked SAIL to increase its distribution network to make the steel available in smaller towns;

(b) if so, the efforts made in this regard; and

(c) how this proposal is going to help SAIL to improve its performance in steel sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) and (b) With a view to increase consumption of steel in the country as also to widen the reach of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL's) branded items of common use *i.e.* TMT Bars and GP/GC Sheets, 208 dealers have been appointed at 99 district locations in 2004-05.

(c) By increasing the distribution network, SAIL's products would reach a wider cross-section of the population thereby increasing its customer base as well as consumption, of steel items.

Profit margin of SAIL

†2090. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the dividend of the Steel Authority of India Ltd. has declined by 54.7 percent during the period from April to December in 2005-2006 in comparison to the same period of the last year;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that the reason of decline in the dividend is the rise in price of coal;

(d) if not, the other reasons therefor; and

(e) the total production during the above said period and the extent to which this production is less or more in comparison to that of last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Based on the financial performance during April to December, 2005, the company has declared interim dividend @ 12.5% of paid-up equity share capital. However, in the corresponding period previous year, the company declared interim dividend @ 15% of paid-up equity capital based on the financial performance during April-December, 2004. Hence, decline in dividend is only 2.5% of the paid-up equity capital.

(c) and (d) During period April-December, 2005, Steel Authority of India Limited has achieved Net Profit (After Tax) of Rs. 2935 crores against Rs. 4139 crores during corresponding period last year (CPLY). The reduction in profits is primarily due to lower Net Sales Price Realization and input cost escalation mainly, coking coal.

(e) During April-December 2005 Saleable Steel production has increased by 8% over CPLY.

(000 *T*)

	April-Dec '05	April-Dec '04	Growth
Saleable Steel	8591	7956	8%

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.